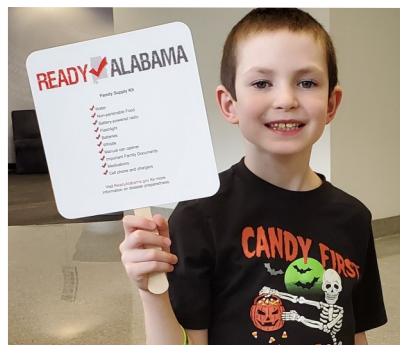


ANNUAL REPORT 2021



PEOPLE • PARTNERSHIPS • PROGRESS

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Kay Ivey
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALABAMA



Kenneth W. Boswell
DIRECTOR

It has been almost five years since Governor Kay Ivey appointed me as director of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, and I continue to be amazed at the reach of our numerous programs throughout the state. I am proud of the positive impact they are making in Alabama communities.

Services like public water and sewer and high-speed internet availability have been provided to those who had not had it before. Our law enforcement officers have been provided equipment to do their jobs, and special funds have enabled officers and troopers to step up patrols on our highways and roads. Parks, playgrounds, senior centers and community centers are being built through ADECA grants, and Alabamians who have found themselves on hard times are receiving help through our energy assistance programs. Special funding helped communities take steps to recover from COVID-19 and protect against future pandemics.

Last year saw the establishment of the Digital Expansion Division at ADECA and the Alabama Digital Expansion Authority, both focused on expanding broadband availability in Alabama. The state also celebrated great success with the announcement of the 2020 Census results and a higher-than-expected population growth.

None of it has been done alone. Every program at ADECA requires a network of people to be successful. Our ADECA staff works hard to put our many programs in place, but the success of those programs is due to the work that goes on far beyond our office walls.

Our achievements come from a basic formula: People – Partnerships – Progress. When people come together for a common cause, great things usually happen.

Governor Ivey has been a true advocate of our programs whether it is helping victims of domestic violence or assisting to bring business and industry and new jobs to all parts of Alabama. She has demonstrated her support by taking an active role in those programs.

ADECA is pleased to have a partnership with numerous federal agencies from which much of our funding is derived. The Appalachian Regional Commission and Delta Regional Authority along with several other federal agencies often visit our state to gauge potential projects and examine completed projects.

You must factor in the mayors, the councils, the county commissions, the legislators, grant writers and planning agencies, community service agencies, the residents and so many others for not only moving the ball down the court, but also following it through to the net.

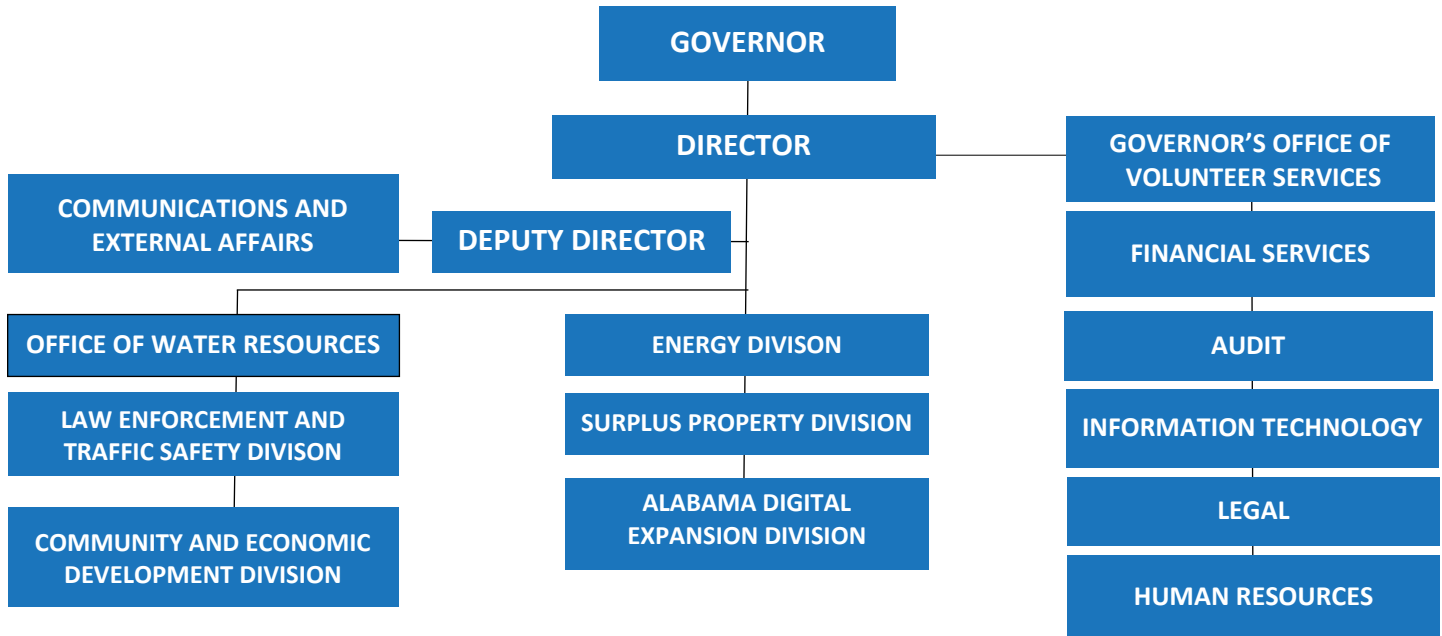
I have had the pleasure over the past few years of visiting numerous communities throughout the state, and I have met some wonderful people. Moreover, I have been impressed with how much the local elected officials love their communities and want to see them prosper.

I look forward to a productive 2022 and meeting new people and reconnecting with acquaintances to discuss our programs and how they might be able to help meet challenges and opportunities.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Boswell

ADECA ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Mission Statement

The mission of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is to improve and strengthen communities and the quality of life in Alabama through a wide range of diverse and comprehensive programs involving economic development, infrastructure, law enforcement, education, energy conservation and technology upgrades, and responsible management of water resources.



The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is housed in the Alabama Center for Commerce building in Montgomery.

2020 CENSUS

From 2017 until the end of 2020, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs led the state's efforts for a successful and accurate count of the state's residents in the 2020 Census. In April 2021, all the hard work paid off when the U.S. Census Bureau announced the statewide population totals, which proved successful for Alabama.

The results revealed the state's population had grown to a population of 5.03 million in the 2020 Census. That was up from 4.8 million people in the 2010 Census. The population growth was enough for Alabama to retain its current seven seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Tasked by Governor Ivey as the lead state agency for the 2020 Census, ADECA's efforts started in 2017 and continued with the Alabama Counts! Committee, a dedicated team effort of hundreds of individuals and groups from across Alabama working together since August 2018. The effort, coordinated by ADECA's Communications and External Affairs Section, included a multifaceted campaign throughout 2020 that included grassroots outreach, public events and advertising. The effort was forced to adjust strategies and tactics several times due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among the state's key successes in the 2020 Census response period were:

- Higher self-response rate than the 2010 Census
- 47 counties exceeded their final 2010 self-response rates
- Many Black Belt counties performed at or above 2010 levels



During a ceremony at the state Capitol in May 2021, Governor Ivey personally thanked the executive committee members of Alabama Counts! for their leadership and dedication to a successful 2020 Census for Alabama.

The U.S. Census Bureau followed the statewide population totals with a release of detailed county, city and census tract level data in September 2021. This data formed the basis of the legislative redistricting process, which was completed by the State Legislature in fall 2021. All 2020 Census population data is now publicly available via the Census Bureau's website, [Census.gov](https://www.census.gov).



ALABAMA DIGITAL EXPANSION

Access to high-speed internet has quickly moved from a nice -to-have item to a vital infrastructure item. Expanded access means more jobs, improved educational opportunities, more health care options and many other benefits for Alabama communities. Since 2017, ADECA has been at the lead of state government efforts to expand access to broadband service in unserved areas of Alabama. The state's progress has been the result of teamwork and partnership between ADECA, Governor Ivey, the Legislature, internet service providers, community leaders and many others who are supportive of expanded access in unserved areas of the state.

The state took several significant steps forward with broadband efforts in 2021. The Connect Alabama Act of 2021, passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Ivey, created a new division of ADECA focused solely on expansion of high-speed internet. This division was established in November 2021 as the Alabama Digital Expansion Division. The broadband programs previously housed in ADECA's Energy Division are now administered by the new division.

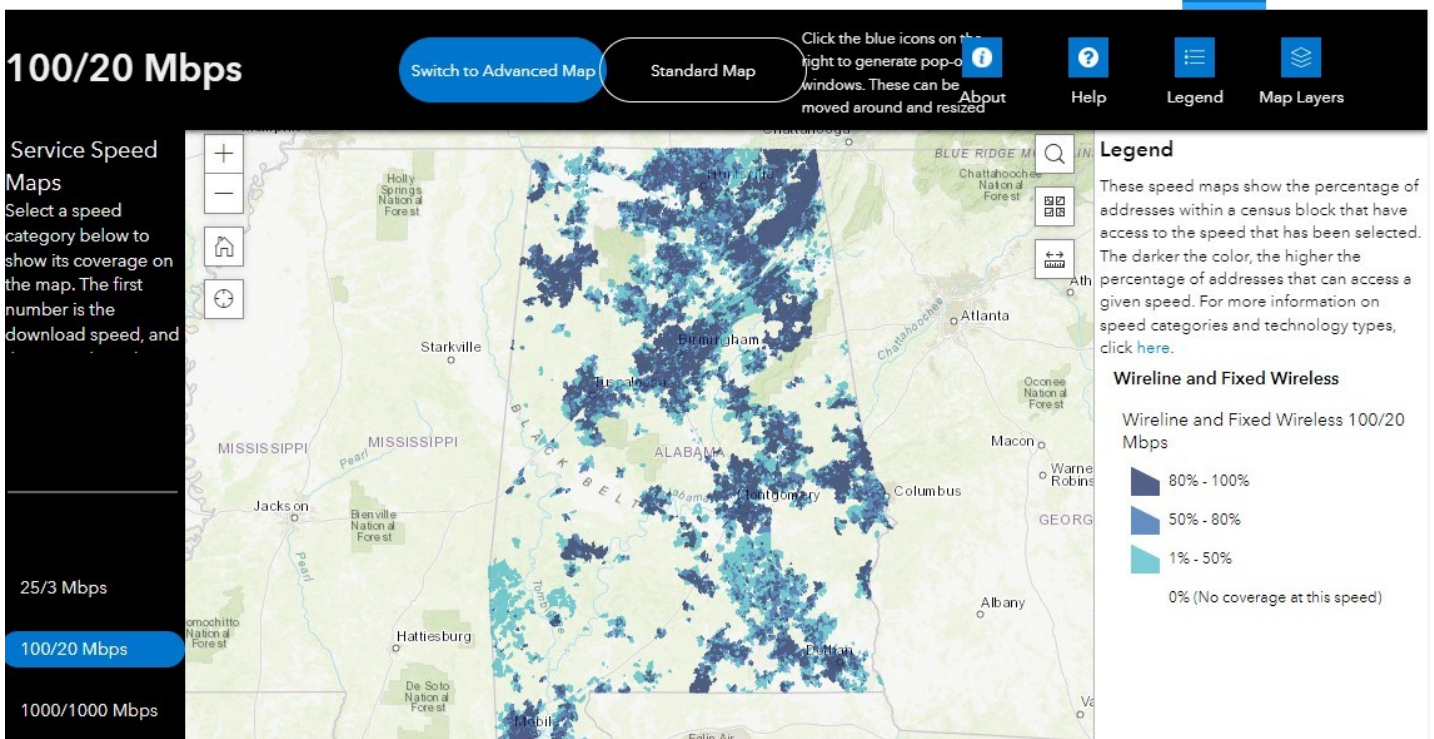
The act also created the Alabama Digital Expansion Authority, a group that works to oversee broadband expansion in the state. The authority is chaired by state Sen. Clay Scofield and co-chaired by state Rep. Randall Shedd.

ADECA also continued administering the state Broadband Connectivity Fund, which is funded through a yearly allocation by the Legislature. The grant program helps offset some of the costs for an internet service provider to install the infrastructure necessary to expand broadband service to previously unserved areas. In 2021, ADECA awarded grants to support 39 projects. Since the program's first round of grants in 2018, ADECA has awarded grants totaling \$37.5 million to support 90 projects across Alabama.

The year also marked the completion of the Alabama Broadband Map and Alabama Connectivity Plan to guide the state's efforts and recommend strategies to expand broadband. The development of the map included months of collaborative work and the participation of 57 internet service providers to give a clear and accurate picture of broadband availability in the state down to the address level. Prior to the map's creation, Alabama, like most states, had to rely on federal data that only requires ISPs to deliver service to one address in a census block to claim the entire area. Without the detail of address-level data, much of the state would be ineligible for broadband funding despite many households not actually having access to broadband services.



Home Maps Survey



The Alabama Broadband Map is now available at broadband.alabama.gov.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Community and Economic Development Division houses numerous grant programs that all have the common goal of helping Alabama communities improve the quality of life.

Community Development Block Grant

The Community Development Block Grant program helps communities upgrade or install infrastructure, provide jobs and make other improvements that benefit residents.

Funds for the CDBG program are provided to Alabama by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Competitive CDBG Awards are announced annually and are awarded to Alabama's towns, cities and counties. Grants are awarded in four categories including Small City (populations of 2,999 or less), Large City (populations of 3000 and above) and counties. A fourth category in which any county or city of any size may apply is the Community Enhancement CDBG program.

Community Enhancement widens the field of eligible projects but is still focused on improving quality of life. Projects may include community and senior centers and recreation facilities.

Another CDBG category is planning grants. While the threshold limit is significantly less than other competitive grant programs, planning grants help communities map out their long-term and short-term plans and goals, cite deficiencies and take inventory of current conditions and programs.

Planning grants also sometimes act as important precursors to obtaining larger CDBG monies.

In 2021, more than \$18 million in competitive CDBG funds were awarded to more than 50 towns, cities and counties.

One example is Perry County, which was awarded \$400,000 to extend public water services to about 100 residents who had previously relied on shallow private wells that were failing or were susceptible to contamination or both. The town of Hillsboro was awarded a \$350,000 grant to correct a drainage problem that left several streets flooded after heavy rains, creating hazards for motorists and their vehicles.

CDBG Economic Development grants are often a major player in helping companies and businesses locate to or expand in a community, particularly in rural Alabama. The grants are awarded on a case-by-case basis and are applied toward infrastructure projects like sewer, water, road and rail to facilitate new or expanding companies that involve plans to hire additional people or preserve existing jobs.



A CDBG was awarded to the town of Hillsboro to help with a drainage problem that caused flooding of roads and property. Photo by Shelby Selman/NARCOG

In 2021, 11 CDBG economic development projects totaling \$4.3 million were awarded. The funded projects created or preserved 847 jobs in Alabama.

A \$258,000 CDBG ED grant was awarded to Tuscaloosa County on behalf of plans by Schnellecke Logistics Alabama to locate in a new building to assist Mercedes-Benz U.S. International in Vance in manufacturing electric vehicles. Schnellecke planned to hire 162 employees immediately and expand that number to 373 within three years of opening.

An almost \$1 million grant to the city of Heflin is paving the way for Great American RV Superstores to open an RV center and resort that will attract visitors and buyers to Cleburne County. The complex will employ 130 people and is expected to lure other businesses to the area.

ADECA also received additional CDBG monies in the form of **COVID-19 Relief Funds**. The \$40.4 million was distributed in two phases to Alabama cities and counties to help resolve or prevent the spread of COVID-19, its variants and future outbreaks of major illnesses.

Once notified of the funds, ADECA sent letters to every municipality and county informing them of the funding and urging them to apply. During the first phase a county and at least two-thirds of the participating municipalities within that county were required to agree on how funds were to be spent.



A \$500,000 grant to the city of Fayette helped Showa Best Glove expand and preserve 186 jobs. The company, which expanded to update equipment, has since added numerous new jobs at the plant.

Recreation and Conservation plays an important role in the lives of many people whether for physical fitness, enjoying nature or gathering with friends and family.

ADECA's **Recreation and Conservation Unit** hosts two of the nation's most popular and successful recreation programs, the Land and Water Conservation Fund program and the Recreational Trails Program. While both programs have different guidelines and measures, their purpose is the same, to encourage people to enjoy the outdoors.

The **Recreational Trails Program** was created in 1998 and is funded through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. The program provides financial assistance to local governments for building recreational trails or trail-related amenities or acquiring properties to construct trails for walking/running, horseback riding, bicycling and motorized vehicles.

Grants can fund up to 80 percent of a project's cost. Recipients provide the remaining 20 percent in the form of a cash

pledge, volunteer and labor or materials and services. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Ceiling amounts range from \$500,000 to \$200,000 depending on the type of trail constructed.

In 2021 Gov. Kay Ivey awarded \$2.2 million to fund 14 projects in Alabama. Among those grants was a \$93,984 award to the town of Section to construct two overlooks at Weathington Park. Weathington Park is one of Alabama's more popular vistas because of its vantage point above the Tennessee River.

The **Land and Water Conservation Fund** has its origins with the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service. The fund is used to construct or maintain ballfields, playgrounds, camping and picnic areas and amenities, swimming pools and splash pads and more.

Applicants can apply for up to \$500,000 grants but grant allocations must be matched on a 50-50 basis. Awarded projects also must remain recreation areas in perpetuity meaning their recreation purpose can never change.

Allocations in 2021 were delayed at the federal level because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Recreational Trails Program and Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped provide outdoor activities and recreation throughout Alabama.

Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission is a federal economic development engine that is dependent on multiple partnerships to see its programs through to success.

Created by Congress in the 1960s ARC's footprint extends in 13 states, including 37 counties in Alabama, with the intent of bringing what has historically been an impoverished area up to parity with the rest of the nation.

ARC funds are used to build or upgrade infrastructure, improve education, stimulate job growth and improve health care.

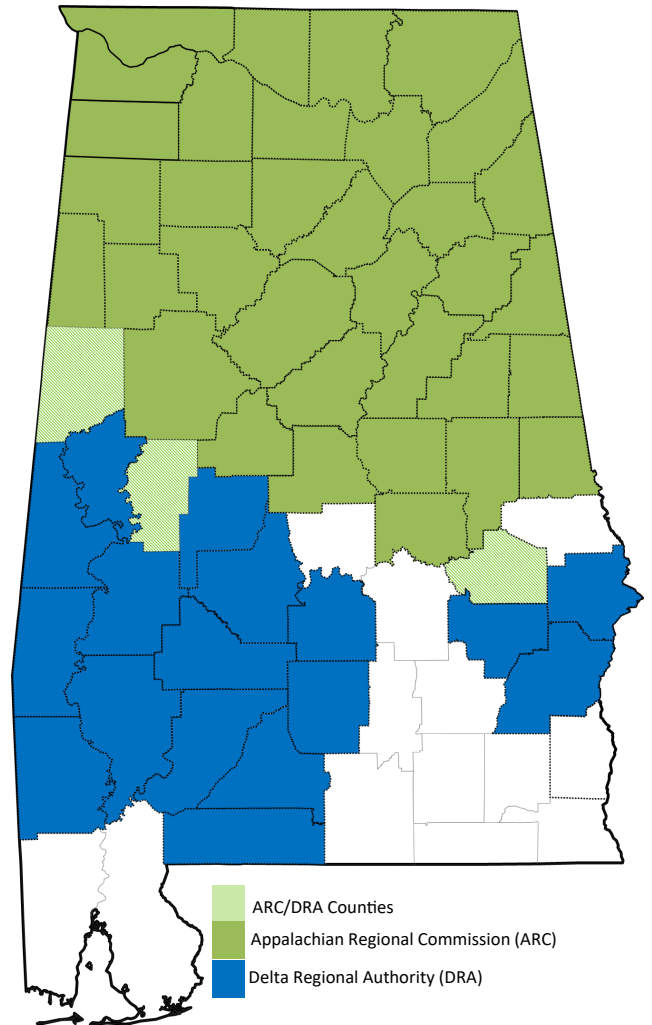
Most projects originate at the local level through city councils, county commissions, school boards, colleges and non-profit organizations, creating a federal-state-local partnership. Member counties are ranked on an economic scale with the more distressed counties more likely to receive funding.

In 2021, 33 ARC grants were awarded in Alabama totaling \$9.2 million. Among them was a \$1 million grant to expand the Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority warehouse on the Tennessee River. As more industries locate in areas in north Alabama including the Alabama Mazda Toyota Manufacturing USA automobile plant, river traffic for exporting and importing is expected to grow.

Another \$1 million grant was awarded to the Fort Payne Board of Education for a technology center to train students in a number of high-demand vocations to help boost Alabama's workforce and meet the needs in those fields.



A \$350,000 ARC grant provided improved road access to REHAU Inc. and several other industries in Cullman County. (Photo by Governor's Press Office)



Delta Regional Authority

Created by Congress in 2000, the Delta Regional Authority strives to improve lives of people in counties and parishes in parts of eight states. In Alabama, 20 counties, mostly in the Black Belt region, are part of the DRA area and eligible for funding.

Like ARC, DRA is a federal-state partnership focusing on business development and employment opportunities, job training and infrastructure and transportation improvements and health and medicine. In Alabama, the DRA exists in some of the state's most distressed counties and are defined by excessive poverty, low populations, undereducated inhabitants, lack of jobs and sparse medical facilities. Grant projects are submitted annually by development districts and once those projects have been determined eligible for funding, the governors of the eight states decide which projects should be funded. The grant allocations are based

on the amount of funds appropriated by Congress.

In 2021, DRA committed \$3.4 million to 13 projects in Alabama. Combined with local allocations, the total amount invested in the projects was \$9.6 million resulting in 204 new jobs, 887 retained jobs and job training for 200 people.

A \$307,071 DRA investment enabled the city of Atmore to construct a new rail spur connecting the main line with a peanut processing plant and other industries in the city's industrial park.

ARC funds were also used to help Marion Military Institute's Flight Training Development Program get off the ground with a \$135,805 allocation.



Buc-ee's Travel Center, a mammoth travel center, is being built in the city of Athens with the help of infrastructure funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Healthy Foods

Even in the 21st Century, many people in Alabama still do not have immediate access to fresh foods. Those locations can be in remote rural areas or in low-income neighborhoods in large cities.

The Alabama Healthy Foods Financing program was funded by the Legislature in 2019 to try to remedy those situations. The grants are designed to help businesses and non-profit organizations with projects to supply fresh fruits and vegetables in areas where those products are not readily available.

ADECA was given the reins of the program at its inception.

In 2021, Gov. Kay Ivey awarded more than \$200,000 in grants to five suppliers. Those grants range from updating a local farmer's market in Aliceville to a purchase of a food truck by The Pantry @ Central Presbyterian in Mobile to expand its food distribution in low-income areas.

The Community and Economic Development Division manages several other programs that include:

The **Neighborhood Stabilization Program** helps revitalize older and less desirable neighborhoods into places people want to live and raise families. Houses that are abandoned and falling into disrepair are renovated and sold or rented.

Minority Business Enterprise is a certification program designed to boost business opportunities for minority owners. Certification can qualify companies for government contracts.

Emergency Solutions Grants Program is a program to upgrade homeless facilities and domestic abuse shelters and to assist homeless people or people at risk of becoming homeless. Eligible activities include rental and utility assistance, moving costs, case management and limited legal assistance. Persons may also qualify for health and mental health services.

The **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS** program provides housing and other assistance to low-income persons disabled by HIV/AIDS. The program also ensures qualified applicants have access to medical care and other services.

Alabama Enterprise Zone Act provides tax incentives to businesses that locate within certain "Enterprise" zones or specified low-income or depressed areas in Alabama. There are 45 Enterprise Zones throughout Alabama.

ENERGY

The focus of ADECA's Energy Division is to support and fund energy innovations and programs while also bringing awareness of the need to increase energy efficiency.

Programs range from assisting low-income families and individuals with energy costs to encouraging innovation in energy and businesses to make Alabama a better place to live.

As more automobile manufacturers, including many in Alabama, turn their focus to developing and improving electrically powered vehicles, Alabama announced **Drive Electric Alabama**, a marketing and education program. Unveiled in November 2021 by Gov. Kay Ivey, the campaign, supported by numerous private and public organizations, seeks to help make electric vehicles and hybrids the norm. Multiple charging stations were funded in 2021 (See Volkswagen Settlement Fund) and an additional \$2 million in state funds will be awarded in 2022 to increase that the number of charging stations. A statewide electric vehicle infrastructure plan released in early 2022 will guide those efforts.

ADECA's **Volkswagen Settlement Fund** came because of a nationwide settlement with Volkswagen Group of America pertaining to emission violations. Alabama was awarded about \$25.5 million and annually awards grants to private and public entities for projects to reduce air pollution by purchasing or altering vehicles and machinery to cleaner running engines. In 2021, Gov. Ivey awarded 18 grants totaling more than \$4.1 million in a combination of Volkswagen funds and legislative funds to install electric vehicle charging stations, primarily along the Interstate 20 corridor.



Funds from the Volkswagen Settlement and the Alabama Legislature have helped Alabama install electric vehicle charging stations on major highways.

The **State Energy Program** awards grants to lower energy costs in schools, government buildings and non-profit facilities through upgrading lighting, heating and air-conditioning systems, roof coatings and other energy-saving modifications.

In 2021 the Energy Division awarded 13 retrofit grants to K-12 schools, local governments and non-profits saving those entities a combined estimate of \$140,000 in annual energy costs. Additionally, nearly 20 building operators were trained to make facilities more energy efficient.

The **Alabama Research and Development Enhancement Fund**, created by state law in 2019, provides funds to research institutions and state universities to develop products and innovations to improve lives and create new jobs. In 2021 about \$4.85 million was awarded to seven institutions and colleges.



HudsonAlpha Institute, a research organization in Huntsville, has received several grants from the Alabama Research and Development Enhancement Fund.

The **Alabama Research Alliance** program encourages educational, agricultural, maricultural and industry research among entrepreneurial enterprises. In 2021, Gov. Kay Ivey, through ADECA, awarded a \$580,000 grant to the Alabama Launchpad program.

Energy operates three programs to assist low-income persons. The **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program** partners with 18 community action agencies and one non-profit organization to distribute funds to help with energy costs. In 2021, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services allocated approximately \$61.4 million in Alabama for the program. The federal agency issued an additional \$41 million to Alabama in American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Community Services Block Grants are funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide emergency services to families and help low-income people obtain self-sufficiency. Approximately \$13 million is received annually to be allocated to the community action agencies.

The **Weatherization Assistance Program** helps provide modifications to homes of qualified low-income families to conserve energy. In 2021, approximately \$4 million was utilized for weatherization projects in Alabama.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

Every year ADECA's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division helps make Alabama communities and roads safer through multiple partnerships and programs.

The division's Highway Safety and Justice Programs units assist local and state law enforcement agencies with several funding programs aimed at reducing crime and improving safety on Alabama's roads and highways. The Victims of Crime and Violence Prevention units focus on curtailing domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking while offering victims of those crimes safe refuge and assistance as they work to rebuild their lives.

Highway Safety and Justice Programs Units

The division coordinates two major campaigns to keep Alabama's highways safe and take dangerous drivers off the roads. The "Click It or Ticket" and "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" programs are two of the most recognizable highway safety programs, and each center around times of the year when more motorists are on the road. The two programs are geared toward ensuring motorists adhere to the state's seat-belt laws and laws against impaired driving.

Additional highway safety campaigns increase police and trooper presence in areas where traffic crashes are more common.

The Justice Programs Unit provides grants to individual police and sheriff's departments to buy needed equipment. The program is particularly significant to smaller law enforcement agencies as it allows them to purchase vital equipment ranging from bullet-proof vests to patrol vehicles. LETS grants are provided to various institutions to conduct specialized training for law enforcement personnel such as forensics and handling evidence at crime scenes.

The Alabama Drug Enforcement Task Force is another program funded through ADECA. Headed by the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, the drug task force is composed of seven regions, and its members are made up of law enforcement officers from police and sheriff departments within each region.

In 2021 the Highway Safety and Justice Programs units awarded 116 grants totaling nearly \$18.7 million.

Victims of Crime and Violence Prevention Units

Domestic violence is a crime that recognizes no ethnic or economic boundaries. It infiltrates all social classes no



LETS annually awards grants to domestic violence centers and shelters to help victims of abuse.

matter their address. Yet the results are often unfortunately the same: destroyed lives, broken families and injuries and sometimes death.

Both units annually award grants to more than 90 agencies and domestic violence centers that assist victims with escaping hostile situations, attend to their medical needs, find them temporary shelter, rebuild their lives and prosecute offenders. Funds are also awarded to programs that deal with sexual assault crimes and support victims.

Grants are awarded through several federal funding sources including the Victims of Crime Act, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and the Violence Against Women Act.

Another source of funds is the Alabama Domestic Violence Trust Fund. The fund was established by the Alabama Legislature in 2015 and is based off a fee on marriage recordings. Funds are distributed to the agencies on a quarterly basis.

Special funds are also awarded to service and prosecution agencies to prosecute child abuse and elder abuse crimes and assist victims.

Both units also help promote and fund programs and events that conduct educational services. Those services involve helping victims become aware that agencies can help and protect them. Part of the education process includes helping family members and acquaintances recognize the signs displayed by victims who may be too frightened or embarrassed to seek help.

In 2022 both units awarded more than 200 grants totaling \$41 million.

OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES

Alabama is fortunate to have an abundance of lakes, rivers and streams that supply not only drinking and household needs, but the ability to grow crops and raise food, provide transportation, produce electricity and meet recreation needs.

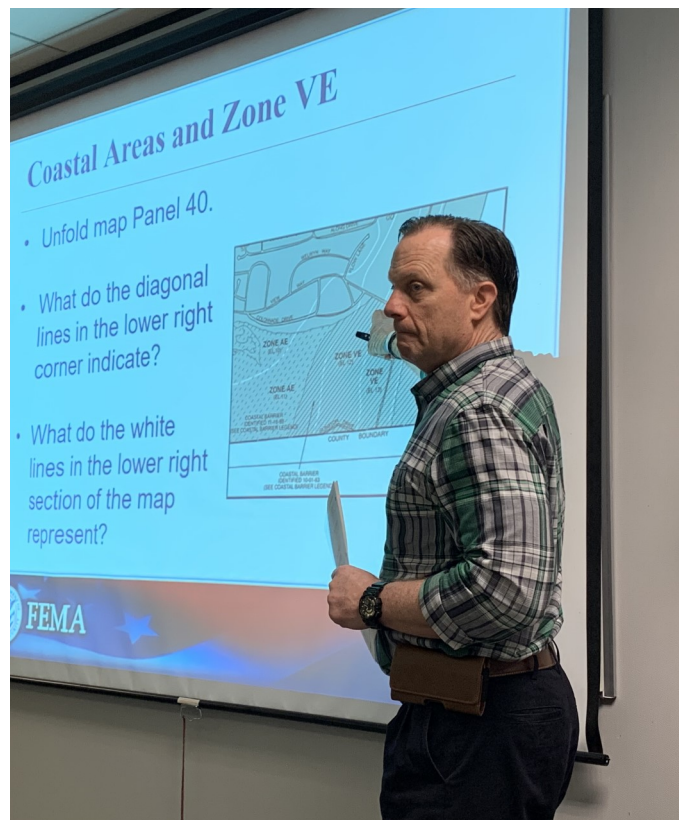
The Office of Water Resources monitors the state's ground and surface water to make sure supplies are plentiful both now and in the future.

As part of its duties, OWR maintains an accurate record of water withdrawals and availability in addition to projecting the state's future needs. Several committees and subcommittees whose members include state water experts and major water users provide guidance in assessing drought conditions during periods of low rain and help the state take measures to lessen negative impacts of low-water periods. A state drought management plan, undertaken by the division, helps guide the state in planning and response when the state or regions of the state are experiencing a drought.

Also, during extended periods of low rainfall, OWR issues drought advisories that include warnings, watches and emergency situations for the nine geographic areas of Alabama. The advisories help water authorities and cities take measures to lessen the impact of drought on their water resources.



OWR hosted a floodplain management training program that brought in managers from throughout Alabama and several adjoining states.



OWR's Corey Garyotis leads participants in a floodplain management training program sponsored by FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program.

As imperative as water is to our existence, it has a destructive side that can claim lives and property, destroy infrastructure and at least temporarily disrupt the way we live and go about our routines.

OWR's Floodplain Management Unit helps identify areas prone to flooding and coastal storm surges. Working on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and local communities, OWR produces flood maps of river basins and counties on a revolving basis to identify and update areas most susceptible to flooding and, on a scale of one to 100 years, how often that flooding is likely to occur. Flood maps and coastal surge maps are used by FEMA to determine if a property is qualified to receive federal flood insurance and the cost involved. Property owners may also be required to alter structure elevations to avoid flood damage.

OWR serves in an advisory position to guide Alabama in ongoing water rights issues involving bordering states Georgia and Florida. The three states have for years been in legal talks concerning the use and flow of water involving the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa and the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint rivers water basins.

SURPLUS PROPERTY

Every year, Alabama state agencies, cities, counties and non-profit agencies save money by turning to ADECA's Surplus Property Division to obtain needed equipment, vehicles, tools, supplies and other resources at drastically low prices.

For local governments and non-profits working with limited budgets, the savings are a tremendous benefit.

Surplus Property collects and distributes mostly used equipment turned over by other state agencies. The division also receives goods from the federal government. In addition, Surplus Property, through an agreement with the U.S. Transportation Security Administration, collects and sells items from several southeastern public airports. The items collected were not allowed on passenger airplanes.

Surplus Property stores and distributes the majority of its property at warehouses in Montgomery and Eva (Morgan County).

The division also makes surplus property available to the public through periodic online auctions at GovDeals.com and GSA Auctions.

Surplus Property also served as a depository in 2021 for materials for the Governor's Office of Volunteer Services, which is another program housed under ADECA.

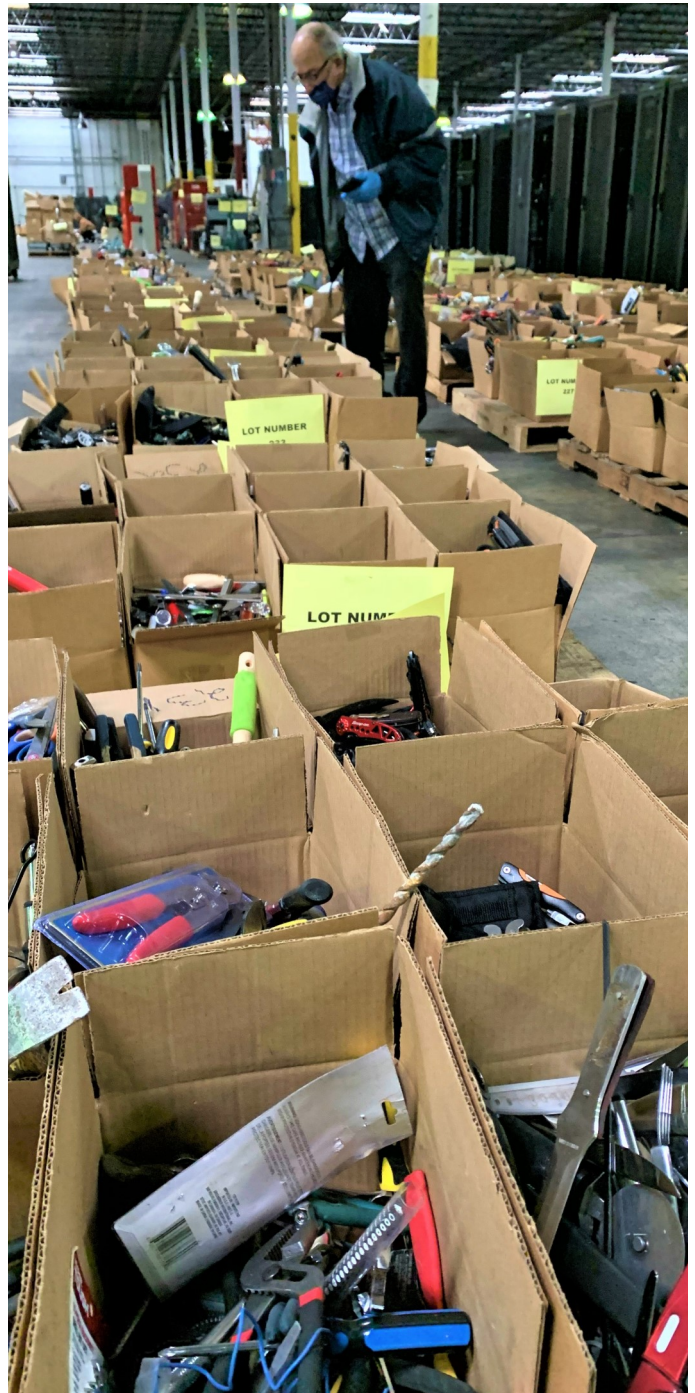
In addition, Surplus Property manages the state's Law Enforcement Support Office program which enables law enforcement agencies in the state to obtain U.S. Department of Defense surplus equipment. There is no charge for the equipment, but law enforcement agencies are required to arrange and pay any transportation costs involved in obtaining the equipment.

Items in the LESO program may range from weapons to vehicles to furniture and appliances.

Law enforcement agencies who participate in the LESO program are required to attend training and agree to specifications of the program before they receive eligibility.

Surplus Property is often called upon to help during disasters by providing or loaning equipment to local governments and public safety and emergency management agencies.

In 2020 and 2021, Surplus Property, joining forces with ADECA's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division, stored safety gear and protective equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Montgomery warehouse was also used by the LETS team as a distribution center to supply law enforcement agencies across Alabama with the equipment which was intended to protect officers and jailed inmates.



While auctions held by ADECA Surplus Property Division are conducted online, participants can still attend on-site viewings of items to be auctioned.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES

The Governor's Office of Volunteer Services strives to promote and encourage volunteerism and render assistance to Alabamians through a series of programs and networks.

Established by executive order from Gov. Kay Ivey in 2017 and placed under the umbrella of ADECA, the office helps to improve lives through many avenues involving health care, education, homeless prevention, environment protection and assistance.

The office, which functions as the Alabama State Service Commission, carries out many state programs under the larger banner of AmeriCorps, a federal agency which promotes volunteerism nationwide.

In 2020-21, GOVS was awarded \$1.63 million in AmeriCorps funds to help local organizations respond to needs in their communities. Aided by AmeriCorps members, organizations were able to recruit and manage community volunteers, provide needed services to veterans and active-duty military personnel and assist K-12 students in their studies.



AmeriCorps members from Impact America-Alabama worked with the Nature Conservancy to stabilize the Streambank in Blount County to reduce erosion and protect the habitat of the threatened Flattened Musk Turtle.

In all – despite the challenges of COVID-19 – AmeriCorps members in 2020-21 provided 223,779 service hours, assisted about 7,241 students with education needs, provided environmental training to 2,607 people and assisted 7,394 people with other needs.

Alabama AmeriCorps personnel assisted the Alabama Department of Public Health, county health departments and the Alabama National Guard at six vaccination clinics by helping with registrations and traffic control.

The office and its affiliates dedicated nearly 8,000 hours to serving 38,000 people which included collecting and distributing food to about 11,000 families and individuals.

Additionally, the office helped distribute hand sanitizers, masks and other protective items to schools, local governments, non-profit groups and community and faith-based organizations in all 67 counties. GOVS also partnered with several groups to conduct mental-health programs relating to the pandemic and its effects on individuals and families.

The Governor's Office of Volunteer Services supports disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts. The office serves as the lead agency for volunteer and donations management as prescribed in Alabama's emergency operation plan and plays a major role in volunteer response and recovery efforts.

In 2021, GOVS responded to several natural disasters involving tornadoes, heavy winds and flooding in several communities and was involved in natural-disaster preparedness programs involving schools and at-home situations.



GOVS delivered disaster preparedness student activity books to Fitzpatrick Elementary School in Montgomery.

ADECA SUPPORT SERVICES

Behind every successful program is the support structure. ADECA maintains a wide and knowledgeable support team that ensures day-to-day operations are handled efficiently and effectively.

Communications and External Affairs

The office of Communications and External Affairs plays a major role in guaranteeing that the ADECA story is told. From issuing public notices and releases on grants and programs to providing public and internal publications, CEA ascertains that the public and elected officials know about ADECA programs and grants and who are the recipients of those grants. CEA jumped aboard early in electronic media and maintains a heavy presence on social media to cast a wider net on providing information.

Information Technology

It is imperative in this day and time that any government entity stay current on technology to be successful and responsive. ADECA's IT unit keeps ADECA employees up to speed on computer services and writes specific programming to enable employees to perform their duties to meet service demands.

The section maintains three units to meet demands and keep ADECA up to date technology wise. Those units include Infrastructure Operations, Business Solutions and Governance and Compliance.

Legal

The Legal team reviews documents and contracts in advance to ensure compliance and to reduce unnecessary delays that might have detrimental effects on projects and other present or future undertakings. The Legal group also represents ADECA in all legal matters and serves to advise divisions.

Audit

Every year ADECA administers millions of dollars in contracts and projects. The Audit staff ensures that each ADECA dollar is accounted for and spent according to its intent. The unit also guides grant recipients on contracts so as not to endanger those recipients' qualifications on future grant opportunities.

Human Resources

One of the first faces ADECA employees see are those of Human Resources. The staff ensures that incoming employees have the needed qualifications and throughout their careers guides them on advancement and into their retirement.

Financial Services

The Financial Services Section manages the everyday budgeting, purchasing, payroll and property management for ADECA. The section also ensures compliance of department, state and federal procedures.

ADECA 2020-2021 FEDERAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

For the year Ended September 30, 2021

Federal Granter/Program Title	Federal CFDA Number	Receipts	Expenditures
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT			
Community Development Block Grants/State's Program	14.228	24,312,376	24,467,375
COVID-19 Community Development Block Grants/State's Program and	14.228	346,777	421,005
Emergency Solutions Grant Program	14.231	2,089,019	2,054,331
Emergency Solutions Grant Program	14.231	3,033,035	3,026,641
COVID-19 Emergency Solutions Grant Program (CARES Act)	14.231	3,025,534	3,064,426
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	14.241	1,936,010	1,936,593
COVID-19 Housing Opportunities for Person with AIDS (CARES Act)	14.241	53,058	53,574
Hurricane Sandy Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery	14.269	152,503.51	153,453.27
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR			
Outdoor Recreation Acquisition, Development and Planning	15.916	668,954	671,264
Water Use and Data Research	15.981	56,558	40,024
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE			
Sexual Assault Services Formula Program	16.017	432,289	432,805
COVID-19 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program	16.034		3,533,813
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention	16.540	734,733	723,942
Crime Victim Assistance	16.575	32,916,376	35,309,898
Crime Victim Assistance/Discretionary Grants	16.582	23,020	23,018
Violence Against Women Formula Grants	16.588	1,917,880	3,118,534
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners	16.593	496,102	499,285
Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program	16.607	62,664	46,960
Project Safe Neighborhoods	16.609	209,425	208,963
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	16.738	3,211,109	2,911,585
Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program	16.742	433,884	288,910
Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program	16.751	84,648	84,648
Emergency Law Enforcement Assistance Grant	16.824	303,927	303,927
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION			
Recreational Trails Program	20.219	2,824,372	2,833,631
HIGHWAY SAFETY CLUSTER			
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	4,557,927	4,504,206
National Priority Safety Programs	20.616	3,334,053	3,053,770
Total Highway Safety Cluster		7,891,980	7,557,976
APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION			
Appalachian Area Development	23.002	4,538,756	4,421,113
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION			
Donation of Federal Surplus Personal Property (value of property - not cash received)	39.003	3,893,940	6,128,611
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY			
Petroleum Violation Escrow	81.Unknown	181	(307,967)
State Energy Program	81.041	897,520	900,723
Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons	81.042	2,804,730	2,807,455
State Energy Program Special Projects	81.119	37,540,099	46,277
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES			
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance	93.568	49,721,254	49,370,298
COVID-19 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (CARES ACT)	93.568	14,069,188	14,120,452
COVID-19 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance [American Rescue Plan (ARP)]	93.568	472,720	472,720
Community Services Block Grant	93.569	12,360,109	12,267,417
COVID-19 Community Service Block Grant (CARES Act)	93.569	8,606,524	8,611,417
Family Violence Prevention & Services/Domestic Violence Shelter/Supportive Services	93.671	1,541,113	1,588,282
COVID-19 Family Violence Prevention and Services/Domestic Violence Shelter and Supportive Services	93.671	349,321	349,200
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY			
Federal Emergency Management Agency			
Community Assistance Program State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE)	97.023	135,104	130,917
Cooperating Technical Partners	97.045	4,574,920	4,571,566
TOTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS		188,041,078	193,133,459

COMMUNITY VISITS 2021



Director Boswell visited Evergreen to discuss ADECA's programs and how they can assist the city and Conecuh County with economic and community development projects.



Director Boswell visited the town of Altoona to speak with Mayor Richard Nash and other town representatives concerning ADECA programs and how they can help improve the community.



Director Boswell met with local officials and legislators in Jackson County on a community visit tour.



Director Boswell was among the many who attended the groundbreaking ceremony for Buc-ees in Athens. The mega travel center will open in late 2022.



Director Boswell visited with Oneonta Mayor Richard Phillips and other local representatives to discuss ADECA programs and how they could benefit the city.



Director Boswell visited Choctaw County and the town of Butler to discuss ADECA programs and listen to local concerns and hear about proposed projects.



401 ADAMS AVENUE
P.O. BOX 5690
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36103-5690
334-242-5100

adeca.alabama.gov

